

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD FROM PRESIDENT COSTA
GOME REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FOR PORTUGUESE REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD HAS JUST BEEN
RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES: BEING QUOTE.

2. PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
LISBON, AUGUST 27, 1975
MR. PRESIDENT:

3. AFTER THE REVOLUTION OF APRIL 25, 1974, THE PORTUGUESE
GOVERNMENT INITIATED A GENUINE DECOLONIZATION POLICY BASED ON
THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE
COLONIAL TERRITORIES AS PRESCRIBED BY RESOLUTIONS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS POLICY, PORTUGAL RECOGNIZED "DE
JURE" THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU AS AN INDEPENDENT AND
SOVEREIGN STATE ON SEPTEMBER 10 OF LAST YEAR AND CONCEDED
INDEPENDENCE TO MOZAMBIQUE, SAO TOME AND CAPE VERDE IN 1975.

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5. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS THEREFORE ABUNDANT REASON TO

REJOICE OVER THE FACT THAT THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS OF THESE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WITH COMPLETE SUCCESS IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

6. AS FOR ANGOLA, THE PRESENT SITUATION THERE IS CAUSING THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT THE GREATEST OF CONCERN. INDEED, THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT AN INTENSE POLITICAL CONFRONTATION ACCCOMPANIED BY REAL ARMED CONFLICT WHICH HAS SPREAD OVER THE ENTIRE NATIONAL TERRITORY.

7. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO MAINTAIN A POLICY OF STRICT, ACTIVE NEUTRALITY TOWARD THE ANGOLAN SITUATION WITHOUT ABDICATING ITS POLITICAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE POWER, DEFENDING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ANGOLA AGAINST SEPARATISM AND OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION WHATSOEVER.

8. POLITICALLY, THE SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED AT AN ACCELERATED PACE, WHICH HAS LED PORTUGAL TO SEEK THE INTERVENTION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL DR. KURT WALDEIM.

9. THE PROBLEM HAS ALSO BECOME ESPECIALLY ACUTE IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR. AS A SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN GESTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE PUBLIC, A PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AND SPEED UP THE EVACUATION OF ALL THOSE WHO INDICATE THE DESIRE TO LEAVE ANGOLA FOR PORTUGAL.

10. IT IS UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT PORTUGAL, FACING THE GREAT TASK OF MOBILIZING THE NECESSARY RESOURCES, HAS ASKED FRIENDLY NATIONS TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO THIS PURELY HUMANITARIAN TASK.

11. THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS I HAVE ALREADY HAD OCCASION TO MENTION TO U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANK C. CARLUCCI, WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL, ESPECIALLY IN EVACUATING PORTUGUESE CITIZENS FROM ANGOLA TO LISBON, --A TASK WHICH REQUIRES MATERIAL MEANS WHICH WE DO NOT HAVE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

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12. MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE ACCEPT THE EXPRESSION OF MY MOST ESTEEMED CONSIDERATION.

13. FRANCISCO DA COSTA GOMES
PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE
REPUBLIC

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MR. GERALD FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, END QUOTE.

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